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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/642,583	08/19/2003	Tadanobu Sato	Q76907	2930

7590 05/16/2006

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EXAMINER

WALKE, AMANDA C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1752

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/642,583

Applicant(s)

SATO

Examiner

Amanda C. Walke

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,6,7 and 9-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,6,7 and 9-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/7/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mydlarz et al (5,783,373 or 5,783,378; column and line citations are for the '373 reference) in view of Edwards et al (5,792,601) in further view of any of Mydlarz et al (6,531,274 or 6,107,018), Budz et al (6,242,172), or Mehta et al (6,265,145).

Mydlarz et al disclose a silver halide photographic material comprising high chloride grains that have been doped with a combination of three dopants which fall within the scope of the present claim limitations. The class (i) dopants fall within the scope of the present class A, the class (ii) dopants fall within the scope of the present classes C and D, and the class (iii) dopants fall within the scope of the present class B (see column 6, line 3 to column 7, line 40, column 12, line 5 to column 14, line 46). For the class (i) dopants, see especially compound i-1,

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i-4, and i-6, for the class (ii) dopants ii-15, ii-20, and ii-25 (present class C), and ii-1, ii-2 and ii-4 (present class D), and for the class (iii) dopants iii-1 and iii-2. Although the reference does not provide information regarding the electron-release time, it is believed that the dopants of the reference will inherently meet these limitations because they are all listed as being preferred by the present specification. The reference teaches that the dopants of formula ii (present C) may be Ir complexes, but fails to specifically disclose an Ir dopant as instantly claimed.

The Mydlarz et al , Budz et al ,and Mehta et al references all teach similar dopants which fall into the scope of the ii dopant of Mydlarz (primary references). Such dopants include pentachlorothiazoleiridium, thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to prepare the material of either Mydlarz et al reference and choose an Ir dopant of the secondary references. It is also noted that H₂O is also a ligand taught to be useful, thus one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to replace the thiazole ligand with H₂O.

Edwards et al teaches a high chloride emulsion comprising iodochloride {100} grains, wherein there is a high iodide iodochloride region of the grains. This region is located preferably in the exterior 15 % portion of the grains. Additionally, iridium doped AgBr Lippman emulsions are added to form bromide epitaxial deposits on the surface of the grains (column 6, line 15- column 10, line 21). The presence of both the high iodide iodochloride region of the grains and the doped silver bromide epitaxial deposits result in an increase in sensitivity and contrast.

Given the teachings of the Edwards et al reference, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to prepare the high chloride grains of Mydlarz et al choosing to add both a high iodide iodochloride region in the grains and the doped silver bromide epitaxial deposits of

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Edwards et al with reasonable expectation of achieving a high chloride emulsion having an increase in sensitivity and contrast.


Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 3/7/2006, with respect to the previous 103 rejection being overcome by the current amendment have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection made in the previous office action has been withdrawn.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amanda C. Walke whose telephone number is 571-272-1337. The examiner can normally be reached on M-R 5:30-4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on 571-272-1526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Amanda C Walke
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1752

ACW
May 9, 2006